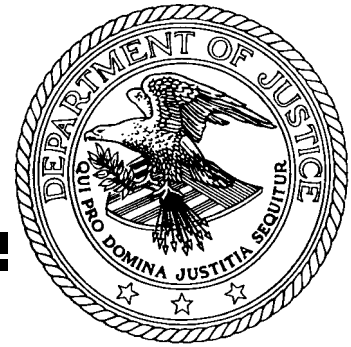


NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U. S. Attorney Christopher P. Tenorio (619) 557-7843

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - January 21, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that a federal grand jury in San Diego today handed up a one-count indictment charging MANUEL TISCORENA RENTERIA in connection with TISCORENA's alleged attempt to set fire to the Congregation Beth Am Temple, located at 5050 Del Mar Heights Road in San Diego, on October 11, 2003. TISCORENA is charged in the indictment with maliciously damaging by fire a building used in interstate commerce.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher P. Tenorio, who is handling the prosecution, the indictment alleges that TISCORENA used fire to damage and to attempt to destroy the Temple, a building used in interstate and foreign commerce.

On January 8, 2004, TISCORENA was arraigned on a federal criminal complaint charging TISCORENA with the same crime alleged in the indictment filed today. On January 13, 2004, the Honorable Leo S. Papas, United States Magistrate Judge, detained TISCORENA on the complaint without bail. TISCORENA is scheduled to be arraigned on the indictment by Magistrate Judge Papas on January 22, 2004.

United States Attorney Lam said that her office is committed to prosecuting vigorously those who endanger property and lives in this community by acts of arson.

DEFENDANT

Manuel Tiscorena Renteria

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Count 1	18 U.S.C. § 844(i) (malicious damage to a building used in, or affecting, interstate commerce) Minimum mandatory penalty: 5 years imprisonment; \$250,000 fine Maximum penalty: 20 years; \$250,000 fine
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AGENCIES

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
San Diego Police Department
Oceanside Police Department

An indictment is not evidence that the defendant committed the crimes charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.